Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) In a crepe process which comprises applying a polymeric binder to a nonwoven web, and creping the nonwoven web on a creping drum, the improvement which comprises using ~~A~~ an alkylphenol ethoxylate-free polymer binder, said polymer binder formed by emulsion polymerization and having a peel value of 35 % to 200 % of a standard alkylphenol ethoxylate-based polymer binder control and a cure profile in which 55 % cure is achieved within 30 seconds of being exposed to a temperature required for cure~~, said polymer binder having properties that render it effective as a binder in a crepe process~~.

2. (currently amended) The ~~polymer binder~~process of claim 1 wherein said crepe process is a double recrepe process.

3. (currently amended) The ~~polymer binder~~process of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the peel value is 50 to 125 % of control binder.

Claims 4-9 (cancel)

10. (currently amended) The ~~double recrepe~~ crepe process of claim ~~8~~ 1 wherein the alkylphenol ethoxylate-free aqueous polymer emulsion is formed by reacting vinyl acetate, ethylene, and one or more crosslinking monomers, under emulsion polymerization conditions, in the presence of a combination of an anionic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant, wherein said anionic surfactant is a sodium laureth sulfate having 1 to 12 moles of ethylene oxide, said nonionic surfactant is a secondary alcohol ethoxylate containing 7 to 30 moles of ethylene oxide or an ethoxylated branched primary alcohol containing 3 to 30 moles of ethylene oxide, said primary or secondary alcohol containing 7 to 18 carbons.

11. (currently amended) The ~~double re~~crepe process of claim ~~8~~ 10 wherein the one or more crosslinking monomers is selected from the group consisting of a N-(C_{1-4}) alkylol (meth)acrylamide, *i*-butoxy methylacrylamide, acrylamidoglycolic acid, acrylamidobutyraldehyde, a dialkyl acetal of acrylamidobutyraldehyde, said alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons, and acrylamide in combination with one or more of the aforementioned crosslinking monomers.

12. (currently amended) The ~~double re-~~crepe process of claim ~~11~~ 11 wherein the self-crosslinking monomer is N-methylol acrylamide.

13. (currently amended) The ~~double re-~~crepe process of claim ~~12~~ 10 wherein the alkylphenol ethoxylate-free aqueous polymer emulsion comprises 50 to 90 wt % vinyl acetate, 5 to 49 wt % ethylene, and 1 to 10 wt % of N-methylol acrylamide, based on the total weight of monomers, and the weight ratio of anionic to nonionic surfactant ranges from 4:1 to 5:1.

14. (currently amended) The ~~double re~~crepe process of claim ~~12~~ 10 wherein the alkylphenol ethoxylate-free aqueous polymer emulsion comprises 70 to 85 wt % vinyl acetate, 10 to 30 wt % ethylene, and 3 to 8 wt % of N-methylol acrylamide, based on the total weight of monomers.

15. (currently amended) The ~~double re~~crepe process of claim ~~13~~ 12 wherein said anionic surfactant is a sodium laureth sulfate containing 2 to 5 moles of ethylene oxide and said nonionic surfactant is a secondary alcohol ethoxylate having 12 to 20 moles of ethylene oxide or an ethoxylated branched primary alcohol containing 9 to 20 moles of ethylene oxide.

16. (currently amended) The ~~double re~~crepe process of claim ~~13~~12 wherein said anionic surfactant is a sodium laureth sulfate containing 4 moles of ethylene oxide and said nonionic surfactant is a secondary alcohol ethoxylate having 20 moles of ethylene oxide.

17. (currently amended) The ~~double re~~crepe process of claim ~~13~~ 12 wherein said nonionic surfactant is tridecanol ethoxylate containing 9 to 20 moles of ethylene oxide.

18. (currently amended) The ~~double re~~crepe process of claim ~~13~~12 wherein the weight ratio of anionic surfactant to nonionic surfactant is 65:35.